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TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1958

Claire McCardell

It was with much sorrow that we recorded the death on Monday of Claire McCardell, a native of Frederick, whose brilliant career in the field of fashions was brought to an untimely end.

All Frederick was proud of her achievements and her success. To see such a useful life terminated when many more fruitful years could have been normally expected is distressingly sad. Yet there is some consolation in the fact that she lived to make an enviable name for herself in her chosen activities. And she reached the pinnacle through her own talent and hard work. In the early stages of her career it was a hard struggle and many a person under the same circumstances would have given up the effort.

We admired her for her determination and perseverance. The results she achieved were solely her own, and the contributions she made to fashion designing will long be remembered. Those embarking upon careers may well emulate her fine qualities of industry and perseverance which are necessary for success in any line of endeavor.

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CLAIRE MCCARDELL

It seems a long way from the pretty streets of Frederick to the high-pressure hurly-burly of New York's garment district, but Claire McCardell made the leap and, by a combination of hard work and flair, became one of the greatest names in American designing. One important factor in her success may well have been that she never lost sight of Frederick. Her simple, elegant clothes were as much at home on Main street, anywhere, as they were on Fifth avenue or the Champs Elysees. She designed not for a select few but for working women from executives to housewives, and was one of the originators of what is recognized everywhere as the "American look," which has survived a lot of other transient "looks" with fancy names.

Another peculiarity of the McCardell style was that, in an industry dedicated to obsolescence, it was never dated. Women who pride themselves on their chic boast of having McCardell dresses years old. Five years ago a Hollywood firm held a retrospective showing of twenty years of Miss McCardell's dresses, all of which could have been worn at the time, or now, by the most fashion-conscious woman. It was a transference to a big-city trade of the frugal good sense, the innate practicality, of small-town life. Though she has been cut off in her creative prime, the lessons Miss McCardell taught will be long remembered by her colleagues, competitors and clients—Baltimore Sun.

OIL STOVE BLAZE

The United Fire Company and Citizens Truck Company responded to a call about 9 p. m. last night to extinguish a small blaze in a veterans housing unit located at 128 Pennsylvania Avenue. Firemen said an oil stove exploded. The blaze was extinguished without material damage.

INTERCEPTION

CORRESPONDENT HOOD SPEAKER

U. S. In Danger Of Becom- ing Second Rate Nation, Downs Says

Bill Downs, noted CBS foreign correspondent and news commentator, spoke at Hood College Saturday before students, faculty and some 170 fathers who were on campus for the annual Dad 'n Daughter weekend.

In his talk in Brodbeck Hall, Mr. Downs warned that the U.S., though the best dressed nation, was in danger of becoming a number two power. He called the present "a period of crisis," and predicted that there will be more crisis, but that we must not panic.

"East-West relations are on a dangerous dead-center," Mr. Downs said. "Our present administration has missed many opportunities of selling our ideas to the rest of the world," he charged, "while Bulganin is carrying on a very effective direct mail advertising campaign." He was referring to Bulganin's many letters proposing a summit conference, but warned against any such conference if no agreements could be reached, he said, "there are no peaceful means left to turn to."

Speaking from his experiences in Moscow during World War II, Mr. Downs said that Russian schools were not as good as ours in physical plant. "The difference," he said, "is in the spirit in which education is approached. Russian kids go to school because they realize that they are the ones who will build the new Russia." Mr. Downs warned that the educational climate in this country will have to change.

Following the talk, Town Hall, the public affairs group which sponsored the event, was host to Mr. and Mrs. Downs at a reception at Carson Y.

The Hood College Marionettes, under the direction of Beverly Canning, assistant professor of English, presented Enid Bagnold's psychological drama "The Chalk Garden" on Friday and Saturday nights.

A formidable play, the Hood group came through in professional style. By the end of the first act it was evident that the performers had whetted their appetites, and they seemed to enjoy themselves more and more into the concluding minutes of the production.

An unusual thing about the production was that the audience got a first hand look behind the scenes. Because of the construction of the stage in Brodbeck Hall, they saw the stage crew changing the sets.

Earlier on Saturday the Dad 'n Daughter weekend festivities got under way with sample classes for the dads in the morning, and group singing, a swim show and a game period in Gambrill Gymnasium that afternoon. The dads participated in volleyball, badminton and bridge with their daughters, and even provided the finale to the student swim show. Eight fathers made a big splash when they went into Hodson Pool, trying to emulate their somewhat more agile offspring.

The dads also provided the entertainment at the Dad 'n Daughter banquet Saturday evening in the dining hall. Eight men did some adept harmony singing, and were called back for several encores.

The fathers were no slouches at the dance held Saturday night in Gambrill Gym. The traditional Charleston and waltz contests got many contestants. Champion waltzers were Sue Johnson and her father, George E. Johnson of Chevy Chase. The Charleston contest was won by Beth Dolby of Cincinnati, but her partner was a borrowed